



RTCA in Alabama

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Alabama offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Alabama will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Crepe Myrtle Trail** – The project goal is to create a multiuse trail for pedestrians, kayakers, and cyclists to enhance outdoor recreation, economic development, and environmental stewardship in the Mobile area. (Location: City of Mobile and Mobile County, Alabama)



Partners collaboratively planning the Crepe Myrtle Trail

Recent Success Story

Cahaba River Blueway— Along the Cahaba River, Moon River's new canoe launch is opened as part of the recent Cahaba River Project. The Cahaba Blueway Project aims to increase tourism and public recreational use of the river and also connect with the abundant trails, historic, and cultural attractions of surrounding communities in the watershed. "The Cahaba is a world-class river, with great potential for additional recreation use and tourism," said Beth Stewart, Cahaba River Society Executive Director. "When public access is well designed, well managed, and well known, the Cahaba watershed communities will have better recreation and economic opportunities that are compatible with the health and beauty of the River and its wildlife." The Cahaba River Society, Alabama Innovation Engine, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Park Service were the core team leading the blueway project. Together, the team has the goal that blueway sites will be well-managed, low impact, and meet the needs of the community.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Alabama contact:

Deirdre Hewitt, Program
Manager
deirdre_hewitt@nps.gov
(404) 507-5691

Charlotte Gillis
charlotte_gillis@nps.gov
(404) 507- 5692

Bill Lane
bill_lane@nps.gov
(404) 507-5690

Josh Moore
joshua_moore@nps.gov
(404) 507-5696

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

FIND YOUR
PARK